

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

vs.

Criminal Action 2:24-cr-139
JUDGE MICHAEL H. WATSON

CRYSTAL M. MIRANDA

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

Defendant Crystal M. Miranda previously pleaded not guilty to an *Indictment* charging her with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of cocaine in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846 (Count 1), and possession with intent to distribute a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of cocaine in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841 (Count 2).

Indictment, ECF No. 16. On June 25, 2025, defendant personally appeared with her counsel at a change of plea proceeding. There is no plea agreement. Defendant's counsel confirmed that formal plea offers, if any, were communicated to defendant.

Defendant consented, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §636(b)(3), to enter a guilty plea before a Magistrate Judge. *See United States v. Cukaj*, 25 Fed.Appx. 290, 291(6th Cir. 2001) (Magistrate Judge may accept a guilty plea with the express consent of the defendant and where no objection to the report and recommendation is filed).

During the plea proceeding, the undersigned observed the appearance and responsiveness of defendant in answering questions. Based on that observation, the undersigned is satisfied that, at the time she entered her guilty plea, defendant was in full possession of her faculties, was not suffering from any apparent physical or mental illness and was not under the influence of narcotics, other drugs, or alcohol.

Prior to accepting defendant's plea, the undersigned addressed defendant personally and in open court and determined her competence to plead. Based on the observations of the undersigned, defendant understands the nature and meaning of the charges in the *Indictment* and the consequences of her plea of guilty to those charges.

Defendant was also addressed personally and in open court and advised of each of the rights referred to in Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. Having engaged in the colloquy required by Rule 11, the Court concludes that defendant's plea is voluntary and that her plea of guilty is not a result of promises made to her, nor as a result of force or threats of force.

Defendant was advised that all sentencing terms will be determined by the District Judge. Defendant was further advised that, if the sentence imposed is more severe than the sentence that defendant expected, defendant may nevertheless not withdraw her guilty plea on that basis. However, defendant was also advised that both she and the United States have the right to appeal the sentence imposed.

At the change of plea proceeding, the attorney for the United States presented a statement of facts supporting the charges. Defendant agreed with that statement of facts and, in response to inquiry by the Court, expressly agreed to facts satisfying each of the essential elements of the crimes charged. Defendant confirmed that she is pleading guilty to Counts 1 and 2 of the *Indictment* because she is in fact guilty of those crimes. The Court concludes that there is a factual basis for the plea.

The Court concludes that defendant's plea of guilty to Counts 1 and 2 of the *Indictment* is knowingly and voluntarily made with understanding of the nature and meaning of the charges and of the consequences of the plea.

It is therefore **RECOMMENDED** that defendant's guilty plea to Counts 1 and 2 of the *Indictment* be accepted.

In accordance with S.D. Ohio Crim. R. 32.1, and as expressly agreed to by defendant through counsel, a written presentence

investigation report will be prepared by the United States Probation Office. Defendant will be asked to provide information; defendant's attorney may be present if defendant so wishes. Objections to the presentence report must be made in accordance with the rules of this Court.

If any party seeks review by the District Judge of this *Report and Recommendation*, that party may, within fourteen (14) days, file and serve on all parties objections to the *Report and Recommendation*, specifically designating this *Report and Recommendation*, and the part thereof in question, as well as the basis for objection thereto. 28 U.S.C. §636(b)(1); F.R. Civ. P. 72(b). Response to objections must be filed within fourteen (14) days after being served with a copy thereof. F.R. Civ. P. 72(b).

The parties are specifically advised that failure to object to the *Report and Recommendation* will result in a waiver of the right to *de novo* review by the District Judge and of the right to appeal the decision of the District Court adopting the *Report and Recommendation*. See *United States v. Wandahsega*, 924 F.3d 868, 878 (6th Cir. 2019); *Thomas v. Arn*, 474 U.S. 140 (1985).

June 25, 2025
Date

s/ Norah McCann King
Norah M^cCann King
United States Magistrate Judge